

## Message

**From:** Thomas, Craig [thomas.craig@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/10/2018 1:42:27 PM  
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**CC:** Maraldo, Dean [Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov]; Poy, Thomas [poy.thomas@epa.gov]; Brown, Alicia [brown.alicia@epa.gov]; Opie, Jodie [opie.jodie@epa.gov]; Bryant, Michael [Bryant.Michael@epa.gov]; Lee, Barbi [lee.barbi@epa.gov]; Whelan, Ann [whelan.ann@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: FEMA Region V OSS 01-10-2018

FYI,

Under the Water Sector, an article on Michigan setting water standards for PFAS

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**From:** FEMA-R5-Watch [mailto:FEMA-R5-Watch@fema.dhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 10, 2018 5:01 AM  
**Subject:** FEMA Region V OSS 01-10-2018

**FEMA Region V Open Source Summary (OSS)**  
**DATE:** 01/10/2018

**Regional Weather and Impacts**

**Winter Warm-Up May Cause Shoreline Flooding**  
**(WBFO)**

**Michigan:** Area rivers and creeks are chock full of ice - and with the warm-up coming this week, municipalities are trying to prevent flooding. The Edward M. Cotter, for example, has been out on the lower portion of the Buffalo River this week, breaking up the ice from the Michigan Avenue Lift Bridge to the mouth of the river at Erie Basin Marina. City officials estimate the thickness of the ice at 6"-10" and say they expect the fire boat to be ice breaking through Wednesday morning, among its other duties. The National Weather Service says Buffalo expects to hit a high temperature near 40 degrees Wednesday, but 52 degrees on Thursday. It says a significant warm-up will arrive Wednesday through Friday morning. The combination of rain and snowmelt may bring an increased risk of flooding, particularly Thursday night and Friday. The greatest risk of flooding is from ice jams, as the warming temperatures and rising flows break up the extensive ice on area rivers and creeks." The NWS says another "strong cold front" will cross the area Friday, bringing with it potentially significant amounts of rain, ice and snow. However, there remains some uncertainty about the front's exact track and how fast cold air will arrive.

**Rain and Warm Temperatures Wednesday Could Lead To Flooding**  
**(Ohio.com)**

**Ohio:** The weather service says rising temperatures coupled with the rain expected Wednesday could cause problems for flood-prone areas in Northeast Ohio. With temperatures in the mid-40s expected Wednesday and high 50s by Thursday, the weather service says the rain coupled with "extensive snowmelt" could cause rivers and streams to rise over their banks. "Due to the recent freeze, most rivers and creeks remain ice covered," the weather service says. "Conditions will favor ice break-up and increased risk for ice jams, especially Thursday into Friday." This will give way to the "potential" for a strong winter storm Friday night into Saturday. The weather service says low pressure will move north out of the Gulf Coast into Ohio to start the weekend. Rain on Friday is expected to mix with freezing rain and sleet by Friday night before switching to all snow Friday night and early Saturday in Akron.

**Environmental/Chemical/HAZMAT Sector**

Michigan Sets Standard for Chemical Contaminant in Water*(U.S. News)*

Michigan: Michigan regulators on Tuesday set a state threshold for chemicals that were once widely used and are being found in drinking water, a move they said will let them issue violation notices and take legal action if needed. The announcement is the latest as Republican Gov. Rick Snyder's administration scrambles to combat potential health risks in tap water that stem from the chemicals used in firefighting, waterproofing, carpeting and other products. The combined standard for perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid is 70 parts per trillion. That mirrors a federal advisory level set in 2016. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, have been detected at military bases, water treatment plants and, most recently, an old industrial dump site for footwear company Wolverine World Wide. The contaminants, classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as "emerging" nationally, have sparked enough concern that Snyder in November created a state response team and last month enacted \$23 million in emergency spending passed by the Legislature. The chemicals were used in scores of industrial applications and have been detected in human and animal blood around the world. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry said scientists are uncertain about how they affect human health at exposure levels typically found in food and water. At least 1,000 homes with private wells in the Plainfield Township area north of Grand Rapids, near where Wolverine dumped hazardous waste decades ago, have been tested for PFAS contamination in recent months.

**Agriculture and Food Sector**Another Illinois State Fair Building Needs Emergency Repairs*(The State Journal-Register)*

**Illinois:** Another building on the Illinois State Fairgrounds needs emergency repairs to avoid the possibility that its badly deteriorated roof could collapse. The Capital Development Board, which handles non-road construction projects for the state, said the roofing system on Barn 13 "has failed, causing water damage to the structural roof joists and decking," according to documents the agency filed to justify the emergency purchase. The state has hired Allied Design Consultants of Springfield for \$100,000 to do the design work and oversee removal and replacement of more than 25,000 square feet of roofing on the building. When the work itself will be done hasn't been determined. The barn came close to demolition in the mid-1990s because it had been declared unsafe. Historic preservationists prevailed on then-Gov. Jim Edgar to consider alternatives. The building was spared when revised cost estimates showed it was no more expensive to repair the building than to demolish it and replace it with a new structure. The Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation was formed to raise money from private sources that can be used to pay for repairs and maintenance to fairgrounds buildings. Foundation chairman John Slayton could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

**Law Enforcement and Intelligence**Bomb Threat Evacuates High School*(Record Eagle)*

**Traverse City, Michigan:** An explosive threat forced Kalkaska Public Schools officials to evacuate the high school. Kalkaska Public Schools Superintendent Karen Sherwood said a student late Tuesday afternoon threatened to set off a bomb at the high school, prompting an evacuation as students and staff were quickly shuffled to Birch Street Elementary School. Sherwood said most students had already departed by the time the threat arrived. Those who remained were safely evacuated. Classes are set to resume on Wednesday unless parents are notified otherwise, she said. Michigan State Police troopers, village police officers and Kalkaska County sheriff's deputies remained on the scene Tuesday evening. Sheriff Pat Whiteford said bomb-sniffing dogs will sweep the building.

**Public Health and Healthcare Sector**Get Ready, Some Medical Experts Are Predicting the Worst Flu Season in History*(CNBC)*

**National:** Medical experts in the United States are worried that this year's flu season could be a nasty one that may be lethal. That's because this year's main flu strain, the influenza A virus, known as H3N2, is worse than the swine flu in 2009. To put it in perspective, back when the swine flu was making headlines it infected just

51,000 people in Australia. This year's H3N2 sickened over 215,000 and the illness has hit our shores. It's a situation that has led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to do a collaborative study with global health partners in an effort to make addressing the situation a global priority. Reported cases in some states, like Arizona, are up more than 758 percent over this time last year, and the CDC reports the flu is in widespread conditions in 46 states, including California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Virginia, as of Dec. 30, 2017. To make matters worse, the flu vaccine is not proving to be very effective against this year's main strain, because of a virus mutation. In Australia it has been effective in only 10 percent of cases, reports The New England Journal of Medicine. The vaccine now being administered to Americans uses the same formulation. While no public health officials are declaring the current flu to be a pandemic, this strain is historically more difficult to fight than others. Australia, for instance, just came through its flu season, reporting record-high numbers of cases of the same H3N2 virus and higher-than-average numbers of hospitalizations and deaths.

Flu Kills Illinois Fourth-Grader, At Least the Fourth Death from the Virus This Season  
(Belleville News-Democrat)

**Illinois:** Another Illinois child has died of the flu in what officials call one of the worst influenza seasons in recent memory. Fourth-grader Johnny Towler died of influenza, according to officials at Barrington 220 School District where Johnny and his older brother attend school. The viral infection attacked his heart, which school officials said is a rare complication from the flu. He died Dec. 31 at Lutheran General Hospital, according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's office as reported by ABC 7 Chicago. This year's flu season is one of the worst in recent memory, according to metro-east hospital authorities. As of last week, Anderson Hospital had tested 1,179 positive flu swabs out of 4,848 collected; by comparison, last year there were 49 positive swabs out of 351 collected. Anderson has created a new manpower pool, pulling staff members from other departments to assist in patient care as beds are now limited.

Too Soon To Blame Romaine Lettuce For E. Coli Outbreak, CDC Says  
(NBC News)

**National:** It's still too early to blame romaine lettuce for an outbreak of E. coli sickness that's affected at least 57 people in Canada and the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. No new cases have been diagnosed since early December, but that doesn't mean the outbreak is over, said Ian Williams, chief of the CDC's Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch. And acting too soon to blame one particular crop might leave people at risk in case it turns out something else, or something additional, is spreading the bacteria, Williams said. Canadian health authorities say they've traced the bacteria to romaine lettuce but have not identified the actual source, such as a farm or distribution center. The cases are scattered across 13 different states from coast to coast: California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Vermont and Washington. Foodborne illnesses are extremely common. The CDC estimates that each year, 48 million Americans are made sick by a foodborne illness. Of those, 128,000 are sick enough to be hospitalized, and 3,000 die.

Critical Infrastructure Sector

Waldorf Asks For \$2M For Water Treatment Overhaul  
(Mankato Free Press)

**Minnesota:** The city of Waldorf's water and sewer infrastructure was first built in 1948. Concrete is peeling off of the walls. A concrete beam supporting part of the wastewater facility collapsed three years ago. Pipes are corroding. The plant's original equipment, including its sludge pump and valves, are failing at a rapid pace. The treatment plant is so bad, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency warns the city of slightly more than 200 residents could face monthly penalties if local officials can't completely overhaul its system soon. Cavett and Waldorf officials met with the Senate Capitol Investment Committee Tuesday afternoon to show just how dire a situation the Waseca County town is in. City officials didn't let lawmakers tour the treatment plant due to safety concerns. Waldorf is asking for up to \$2 million in public works funding from lawmakers this year to redo its water and sewer infrastructure, build a new treatment plant, and fix the way the city distributes its water. Waldorf has steadily raised water and sewer rates for the past few years in anticipation of paying for

major fixes. The city has raised about \$10.7 million in grants and loans, but local officials hope the Legislature approves about \$1.2 million in project funding and another \$775,000 to offset high utilities costs as a result of the loans the city will pay.

Pike County Sues Drainage District For Bridge Repair  
(WGEM)

**Pike County, Illinois:** Pike County, Illinois, is suing the Valley City Drainage District over damage to a bridge, according to the state's attorney. Pike County States Attorney Zack Boren said this involves the Highway 21 Bridge that crosses McGee creek just south of Chambersburg, Illinois. The Pike County Board said about a year ago the county and the Valley City Drainage District agreed on a project that would allow the district to take out material under this bridge to stop water from McGee creek from going over the levee. "The job was done and it was done quite a bit different than what had been laid out, so we were pretty surprised," County Board Chairman Andy Borrowman. Borrowman said county engineers looked at the bridge and were worried about the piers after the work was done. Now they approved a project to fix the bridge, which is expected to cost \$100,000. That's why they filed a lawsuit against the district. Borrowman said the project will go out for bid sometime this month and could be done as soon as this spring. The Commissioners with Valley City Drainage district declined to comment citing the advice of their lawyer.

Emergency Management/Preparedness Sector

Woolpert Awarded Part of \$610M FEMA Contract to Support Disaster Relief  
(MENAFN)

**National:** Woolpert will provide technical engineering and architecture resources under a five-year, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Technical Assistance Contract (PA TAC) IV, which has a ceiling value of \$610 million. Serco Inc., the prime contractor, is a professional, technology and management services provider. Serco has partnered with Woolpert to evaluate and assess damage and needed repairs to public infrastructure after a presidentially declared natural disaster or emergency. This nationwide FEMA contract divides its assistance to governmental entities, tribes and nonprofit organizations into three zones. Woolpert will provide resources within Zone 2, which includes Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. Woolpert—an international architecture, engineering and geospatial (AEG) firm—collected high-resolution, before-and-after imagery to assist local, state and federal agencies in disaster relief after hurricanes Irma and Harvey in 2017 and after massive flooding in South Carolina in 2015. This is the 107-year-old firm's first contract to provide engineering and architectural resources in response to natural disasters and emergencies.

Communications/Information Technology Sector

Air Force Looks to Companies, International Partners in Quest to Improve Space Weather Forecasting  
(Space News)

**National:** The U.S. Air Force is seeking continuous improvement of its ability to understand and forecast space weather that impacts Defense Department satellites, said Ralph Stoffler, Air Force director of weather. The Air Force also is expanding international partnerships. An inherent challenge with all aspects of the space weather mission is cybersecurity. The Air Force relies on a combination of old and new observing systems scattered around the world. "One of the reasons we are not as far along as we should be in this area is because cybersecurity is a big deal," Stoffler said. Cloud computing may help. Commercial data providers often move their data into clouds with built-in cybersecurity. The Air Force could then pull data from those clouds into its processing centers. The Air Force also plans to install an Energetic Charged Particle (ECP) sensor on its spacecraft. A prototype of the new ECP sensor is undergoing testing and the Air Force plans anticipates full operational capability in 2023. The space weather mission is becoming increasingly important as the U.S. military expands its reliance on satellites for communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. All of those missions "rely on space capability and if the space stuff doesn't work, you are in serious straits," Stoffler said.

Very Respectfully,

Cornelius C. Miller

Senior Watch Officer

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**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**